1. **Introduction and prayer**
2. Personal story of misusing something that was not mine for my own needs to the harm of another.
3. **The Need:**
4. Stats:
	1. Stats: 1 in 3 women (1 in 4 as kids, 1 in 4 as college aged women) /1 in 6 men -
	2. 1 in 3 out of 4 of rapes the victim knows the rapist
	3. AND MOST ALL keep it a secret
5. **Definition :**
	1. SEXUAL ABUSE: is any sexual activity (verbal, visual, emotional, physical) engaged in without consent\*, which uses one person in order to meet another person’s sexual needs. This activity may be accomplished through force, intimidation, coercion, deception or influence of authority.

\*Note: A person does not “consent” if he or she cannot reasonably accept or refuse sexual advances. A victim’s age, circumstances, understanding, and dependency/relationship to the offender may limit ability to consent.

1. **From Victim, To Victor, To Vice-Regent**
	1. **Victim**
		1. Victim - you WERE a victim of a horrible, evil, sad, inappropriate, never ok event or season of abuse and the effects are lasting. NOT who you are.
			1. Your abuse was not your fault. NEVER. You are NOT TO BLAME. PERIOD. In Christ, your abuse will NEVER DEFINE YOU. You're NOT damaged goods. You're not stained. You're NOT less than. You are loved and treasured‚Ä¶
			2. Doesn't matter if you were blacked out at a party, fooling around and went farther than you wanted, if you enjoyed it, if you participated in it, if you liked the porn, etc.
		2. If God is good, how could He allow this? Where was He? Stepdad, uncle, grandfather, babysitter, coach, teacher, neighbor, cousin, boyfriend, date, college guy, etc.
		3. Prob of Evil.
			1. Loved, Created, Free-will, Address God's love and grieving of sin. Jesus.
			2. Wrong? Absolutely. Grieved God? Absolutely. Can He redeem it? Absolutely!!
				1. Don't let what Satan and Sin did to you pit you against the one who can actually heal and free you. Satan would love to cause it and then cancer your relationship to God by inciting you to rail against him.
			3. Step-dad, grandfather, neighbor, cousin, fraternity guy, boyfriend, coworker, coach, teacher, etc.
		4. There is a victim reality, but don't live in a victim mentality - it doesn't help you and shouldn't define you / "were" a victim - past tense / not your identity. You be you - NOT what was done to you.
			1. Victim Mentality: Victims of abuse can get stuck in a self-image of victimization, including: pervasive sense of helplessness, passivity, loss of control, pessimism, negative thinking; feelings of guilt/shame/self-blame/depression
			2. This way of thinking can lead to hopelessness and despair.
			3. This way of thinking can also lead to mistreatment of others:
				1. You're not responsible for your abuse, but you are responsible for your response. Knew a guy who treated everyone horrible because of…
				2. Some common responses: Isolation, Perfection, Objectification, Manipulation

Sometimes the abused become abusers.

* + 1. Transition: instead of a victim with a victim mentality / you need to have a victor with a victory mentality.
			1. An author has poignantly said, "It is impossible to hold up the banner of victim and victory at the same time." Lysa Terkuest - Uninvited
			2. If you were abused and trusted Christ, you're not a survivor…as if all you did was survive. Because of Christ, you have overcome. You're a victor. And overcomer.
	1. **Victor**
		1. Satan wants it to destroy you (deny, suffer in silence, shame, enjoyed it?, isolate, devalue)
		2. Christ wants it to draw you. My broken parts: sexual abuse, alcoholism, women, $
			1. Don't try to hold onto what is already on the cross. And Rom 12 - It is mine to avenge says the LORD.
			2. If you have been abused, you need to ACT.
				1. **A**cknowledge abuse and lies. Like "it was your fault"
				2. **C**hrist is your identity.
				3. **T**rust is essential (of God and others)
		3. Personal victory in Christ thru cross and resurrection :
			1. sins by and against cleansed thru your death and res to new life
			2. You are not defined by your sins or the sins committed against you.
			3. He died for your sins and the sins against you. Even your abuser's sins
			4. And at some point - as soon as possible, you need to forgive your abuser
		4. Transition: Gen 50:20/Joseph - abused, abandoned, sold into slavery, jailed as an attempted rapist, alien in foreign land and then raised to second in charge…known over all of Egypt - not as an abandoned rapist slave.
		5. Jesus breaks every chain and erases every shame.
	2. **Vice-regent** - one appointed by a sovereign ruler to go & represent/advance a kingdom
		1. Subject to Christ.
		2. Injustice becomes your influence
		3. Ambassador - Don't worry - you're not going to be on stage. First, tell someone. (my story - Charlie in his kitchen during Step 5, then another, then one night)
			1. Sent by Christ. Speak/Shepherd for Christ.
			2. Introduce testimony
1. **Closing:**
	1. Remember when I filled our house with smoke. It damaged the clothes…they reeked. But it was not permanent. We washed them. And there’s something a lot better than coconut face tonic to wash you. The BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS WASHED YOU CLEAN and MADE YOU RIGHTEOUS. PERIOD. YOU ARE CLEAN.
	2. Show Images again…toothbrush picture, Remember that toothbrush from the trash artist?
	3. NOW full picture. Can anyone find the toothbrush?
	4. It’s a part of your story, but it doesn’t define you. Give God your toothbrush. Give God your abuse. Tell someone tonight. Tell your group. And let God redeem your pain. It’s what He lives to do!!!
	5. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may there be a revival born tonight. Jesus said the gates of Hell will not prevail against the church. We will not be held captive by the lies and fears of Satan for the sin committed against us. If just one person spoke up in each group – even if you’ve already dealt with it – it will give the freedom for others to speak. So will you be the one to share tonight? Will you spark the revival in your group? And then will you be the one to share next? We are victors and vice-regents in Christ and we will NOT LIVE IN SILENCE, BUT IN THE SALVATION AND SAFETY THAT IS FOREVER OURS IN CHRIST.

**A final note:** Address abused and abusers. No one beyond healing of Christ and all are welcome here. And no one will harm anyone here and no one will be condemned here.